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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,790	02/14/2002	Larry E. Wittmeyer JR.	000409.090	9158

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EXAMINER

AHMAD, NASSER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/075,790Applicant(s)
WittmeyerExaminer
Nasser AhmadArt Unit
1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 13, 26, and 27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 6) ☐ Other:

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1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-12 and 14-25, drawn to a decal kit, classified in class 428, subclass 40.1.
 - II. Claim 13, drawn to a process for making a decal, classified in class 156, subclass 271.
2. III. Claims 26-27, drawn to a decal, classified in class 428, subclass 343.
3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:
4. Inventions group III and group I are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be useful as an abrasive polishing device and the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.
5. Inventions group II and groups I and III are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially

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different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by a materially different process such as printing an image on the adhesive layer and then laminating it with the base sheet.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

8. During a telephone conversation with Andrea F. Sellers on May 30, 2003 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-12 and 14-25. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 13, 26 and 27 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11, 14, 16 and 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins (6,299,967) in view of Mazurek (6,123,890).

Collins relate to a decal kit comprising a base section. The base section includes a base sheet, a release coating on the base sheet and a layer of ink jet coating covering the release layer. The base sheet can further have a protective layer (abstract). An adhesive layer is applied to the image layer and has a release layer thereon forming the adhesive section of the kit. However, Collins fails to teach that the adhesive section comprises an adhesive layer between two release liners. Mazurek discloses an adhesive layer for making labels, skin adhering articles, etc. (col. 1, lines 25-28). The adhesive is provided between two release liners (col. 3, lines 5-14) with the motivation to transfer coat to an article. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize Mazurek's teaches of using adhesive between two release liners to transfer said adhesive to the image layer in the invention of Collins.

Collins, in col. 3, lines 63-68, teaches the use of water-resistant compound between the release layer and the ink jet coating. The water-resistant layer can also function a finish layer.

Further, Mazurek also teaches that the adhesive can have a backing of metal (col. 17, lines 24-27) which is known to be opaque.

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

12. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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13. Claims 14, 16 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Collins.

Collins, as discussed above, teaches the decal comprising a base sheet, a release coat thereon, an ink jet coating covering the release layer, an image printed thereon, an adhesive layer on the image layer and a release sheet covering the adhesive. A water-resistant/finish layer can be provided between the release layer and the ink jet coating.

14. Claims 3, 10, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins in view of Mazurek.

Collins and Mazurek, as discussed above, fails to teach that water-resistant compound is urethane. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Collins' reference with urethane as a water-resistant compound, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Further, the thickness of 1.5×10^{-3} or less would have been obvious based on optimization through routine experimentation.

15. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

16. Claims 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which

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was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification teaches that the thickness is less than or equal to 1.5×10^{-3} but fails to disclose the unit of measurement therefor. In the absence of such, it is not clear as to what unit can be used. Is it micron, mils, feet?

17. Claim 12 is free of the prior art uncovered so far in that the recited particles for the decorative layer is not taught.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 703-308-4424. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 am to 5 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


NASSER AHMAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

N. Ahmad/mn
June 10, 2003